

# **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

## **Public Meeting Minutes**

**October 19, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

## **Virtual Public Hearing and Public Meeting**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's Office, Concord's Community Preservation Committee held a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. using the Zoom meeting platform. Meeting ID: 874 3889 4766 Password: 701900

Committee members Diane Proctor, Tom Kearns, Nancy Nelson, John Cratsley, Burton Flint, Paul Boehm, Peter Ward, Sarah Grimwood and Charles Phillips were present.

Others Present: Rick Moore, Cheryl, David, Katy Blair, Susan Bates, Wendy Slattebo, Jonathan Higgins, Elizabeth Hughes, Anna McKeon, Linda Escobedo, Beth Kelly, Josh Galper,

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. by a roll call vote.

### **Assabet River Pedestrian Bridge**

Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner presented the proposed project to the Committee which requests \$300,000 in CPA funding to continue the development of complete architectural plans, full structural and construction drawings that meet the requirement of MassDOT, specification, estimates and final permitting needed for construction of the Assabet River Pedestrian Bridge. Ms. Hughes presented the background on the project and the project timeline from 2007 to present day. Ms. Hughes reviewed the location options that were considered and a background on the funding for the project.

Mr. Ward stated that this is an exciting project that will also serve as a connector for the residents of Concord Greene. Mr. Ward asked about the likelihood of getting the mass trails grant. Ms. Hughes stated that the grant program only requires a 25% match, so this project will be well above that threshold, and that she received positive feedback from the director of the grant program. Mr. Ward asked about private donations. Ms. Hughes provided an update on the status of private funding from local businesses and property owners abutting the bridge. Dr. Grimwood asked about the timeline for the mass trails grant. Ms. Hughes stated that it takes about 4-6 months to get thru the process, so that will line up with funding in July. Dr. Grimwood asked how long it will take to get the plans to 100% design stage. Ms. Hughes stated that it would take one year and then they could submit them to MassDOT. Dr. Grimwood asked if they expect to need more CPA funding for the construction of the project. Ms. Hughes stated that the town will need to put in some funding towards the construction, but that Ms. Rasmussen as already submitted a request for capital funding. Ms. Hughes indicated that it is possible in three plus years they may need to request some CPA funding to go towards the construction. Mr. Boehm asked about what was planned for the Concord Park side of the bridge. Ms. Hughes showed the Committee a site plan with a map of how the bridge will connect with existing trails. Mr. Kearns asked a clarifying question about the budget. Mr. Phillips asked how the bridge will accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. Ms. Hughes stated that the architectural design of the bridge includes separated lanes for both parties. Ms. Nelson asked about federal funding. Ms. Hughes stated that the TIPP includes state and federal funds, which means that they will need to pay prevailing wage, which increases the cost. Ms. Nelson noted that federal funding will require Section 106 review of the project.

CPC MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2021

# **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

## **Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan**

Anna McKeown, Recreation Director presented the project to the Committee, which requests \$75,000 in CPA funding to hire a qualified consulting firm to update the Town's Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan. Ms. McKeown reviewed the 2014 plan benefits and outcomes, which include Rideout Park improvements, Emerson Park improvements, Beede Center improvements, and facility scheduling software. Ms. McKeown reviewed the goals for the new plan, the budget, proposed scope of work, potential plan sections and the projected timeline. Mr. Boehm asked if the plan will be able to be utilized by other departments in the town. Ms. McKeown stated that it will. Mr. Boehm asked about public/private organizations and what their involvement in the plan will be. Ms. McKeown stated that they will be consulted and that there is value in feedback from those groups. Mr. Ward asked if national best practices will be included in the Plan. Ms. McKeown stated that yes, regional and national data will be used in the development of the plan. Dr. Grimwood asked why the plan needs to be updated now. Ms. McKeown stated that the community and the town's assets have changed, so the plan needs to be revised to reflect those changes.

## **Treatment and Prevention of Cyanobacteria Blooms in White Pond**

Beth Kelly presented the project to the Committee, in which the White Pond Advisory Committee requests \$36,000 in CPA funding to continue in-pond remediation in White Pond to mitigate cyanobacteria outbreaks using a pilot program that effectively mitigates toxic blooms apparent on the water's surface and sediment. Ms. Kelly reviewed the background on the blooms in the pond, how the blooms effect, how the A-Pod system works to collect the blooms, and the project budget.

Mr. Boehm stated that remediation of the blooms in the pond is just a piece of solving the problem, and that this system doesn't cover prevention as the application is titled. Jonathan Higgins stated that the removal of the blooms from the pond helps to prevent future blooms because the bacteria itself contributes as a source of the nutrients. Mr. Boehm asked why there was not a co-applicant from the town. Ms. Kelly stated that there was a short timeframe in which they had to submit the application, so the Natural Resources Director did not have enough time to review the application. Ms. Kelly asked if letters of support from town staff will suffice. Mr. Boehm expressed process and budget concerns and asked if the applicant had considered the need to partake in the competitive bidding process. Mr. Boehm asked who will provide the administrative support for the project. Mr. Boehm also asked if the technology has been approved, and wondered if the town can fund a trial technology. Mr. Flint asked if funding will be administered by the town. Ms. Kelly stated that she would hope that the Natural Resources or Health department would administer. Mr. Flint asked if Ms. Kaye would be available to speak on behalf of this project. Mr. Ward asked if this project will need to be refreshed year after year. Ms. Kelly stated that it will take two years, but that this funding request is only for one year. Dr. Grimwood asked why this project and testing of the water quality is not included in the same request. Ms. Kelly stated that it is a collaborative project. Mr. Cratsley asked how many sites were used in the pilot program. Ms. Kelly stated that it is still in the pond, and that it was moved

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

to two different locations within the pond. Mr. Cratsley asked if they have thought about funding this privately so that the technology can be more established before requesting public funding.

Jim Ricker, member of the White Pond Advisory Committee spoke in favor of the application.

### **Staff and Technical Services**

Ms. Gill presented the proposed project to the Committee. Ms. Gill stated that the town is requesting \$40,000 for staff and technical services for the CPC. Ms. Gill explained that the CPC is allowed to use 5% of their funding towards staff and technical services and briefly explained the history of funding for this project. Ms. Gill reviewed the proposed budget and the costs of certain things including the annual dues for the Community Preservation Coalition, signage and staff salary.

Ms. Proctor asked what other communities allocate for staff and technical services. Ms. Gill shared the amounts that surrounding towns allocate from data collected in 2019. Ms. Proctor asked if the \$40,000 has been enough to cover all of the expenses. Ms. Gill stated that it seems to be enough at this time, but will likely need to increase in the future. Ms. Proctor asked if the CPC pays for town counsel's review of the CPA applications each year. Ms. Gill stated that in the past the applications were reviewed under the warrant review so it was paid by the town's town meeting expenses. Ms. Gill stated that they have been told that the town's legal expenses are strained and boards will be required to cover their own legal expenses moving forward. The Committee asked to find out what other town's budget for legal and consulting services each year. Ms. Nelson asked if there is a projected amount of funding available. Ms. Gill stated that we have not received that memo from the finance department yet, but that it is usually sent in October.

### **Other Business and Minutes**

There were no draft minutes to be reviewed at this meeting.

The Committee discussed clarifying and application versus re-writing an application.

With no further discussion, Dr. Grimwood moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. Mr. Ward seconded and all others voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Gill  
Senior Planner

Minutes Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_ November 16, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary